

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CRAIG ALAN VANNESS,

Plaintiff,

v.

WELL PATH MONROE COUNTY
DETENTION CENTER, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 3:25-cv-00073-MMD-CLB

ORDER

I. SUMMARY

On February 7, 2025, pro se Plaintiff Craig Vanness, an inmate in the custody of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Key West, Florida, filed a document titled "Craig Alan Vanness vs. Wellpath Monroe County Detention Center." (ECF No. 1-1). This document does not constitute a complaint, and Plaintiff neither paid the \$405 filing fee nor filed an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (See ECF No. 1). Plaintiff filed at least two other actions that appear to concern the same or similar events. See *Vanness v. Monroe Cnty. Sheriff's Office*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00074-ART-CSD (D. Nev. filed Feb. 7, 2025); and *Vanness v. 15CF67AD*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00075-CLB (D. Nev. filed Feb. 7, 2025). This Court will give Plaintiff an opportunity to file a complaint and address the matter of the filing fee.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Plaintiff must file his case in the proper venue.

Plaintiff sent his initiating document from a facility operated by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Key West, Florida. This document mentions events that allegedly happened to Plaintiff in Monroe County. There is no Monroe County in Nevada. To the extent Plaintiff is attempting to bring claims about his arrest, criminal case, or conditions of his detention or incarceration in Monroe County, Florida, he is advised that the District

1 of Nevada is not the appropriate venue for his claims. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) instructs that
2 a plaintiff may bring an action in:

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4 (1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all
5 defendants are residents of the State in which the district is
6 located; (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the
7 events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a
8 substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is
9 situated; or (3) if there is no district in which an action may
10 otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial
11 district in which any defendant is subject to the court's
12 personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.

13 And if a case has been filed in the wrong district or division, the district court in which the
14 case has been incorrectly filed "shall dismiss" it "or, if it be in the interest of justice, transfer
15 such case to any district or division in which it could have been brought." 28 U.S.C.
16 § 1406(a).

17 **B. Plaintiff must file a signed properly formatted complaint.**

18 If Plaintiff wants to proceed with this action, he must submit a signed, properly
19 formatted complaint on this Court's approved form. Plaintiff is advised that "[a] civil action
20 is commenced by filing a complaint with the court." Fed. R. Civ. P. 3. A complaint must
21 contain "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the [plaintiff] is entitled to
22 relief" and "a demand for the relief sought, which may include relief in the alternative or
23 different types of relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8. "A party must state its claims or defenses in
24 numbered paragraphs, each limited as far as practicable to a single set of circumstances."
25 Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(b). And "each claim founded on a separate transaction or
26 occurrence ... must be stated in a separate count." *Id.*

27 "A civil-rights complaint filed by a person who is not represented by an attorney
must be submitted on the form provided by this court or must be legible and contain
substantially all the information called for by the court's form." Nev. LSR 2-1. And the
complaint must be signed personally by the unrepresented party. Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a).

Moreover, “[p]laintiffs generally have ‘no right to maintain two separate actions involving the same subject matter at the same time in the same court and against the same defendant.’” *Adams v. Cal. Dept. of Health Servs.*, 487 F.3d 684, 688 (9th Cir. 2007), overruled on other grounds by *Taylor v. Sturgell*, 553 U.S. 880 (2008), (quoting *Walton v. Eaton Corp.*, 563 F.2d 66, 70 (3d Cir. 1977)). And duplicative litigation by a litigant who is proceeding under *in forma pauperis* status can be dismissed as malicious and thus constitute a strike under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915. See *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1105 n.2 (9th Cir. 1995).

C. Plaintiff must address the matter of the filing fee.

If Plaintiff wants to proceed with this action, he must address the matter of the filing fee. The fee for filing a civil-rights action is \$405, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$55 administrative fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). “Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.” Nev. LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate’s prison or jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period**. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), (2); Nev. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

III. CONCLUSION

It is therefore ordered that Plaintiff has **until March 12, 2025**, to submit a signed legible complaint on this Court’s approved form.

1 It is further ordered that Plaintiff has **until March 12, 2025**, to either pay the full
2 \$405 filing fee or file (1) a completed application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with the
3 inmate's two signatures on page 3, (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both
4 by the inmate and the prison or jail official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund
5 account statement for the previous six-month period.

6 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if
7 he fails to timely comply with this order.

8 The Clerk of the Court is directed to send Plaintiff Craig Alan Vanness the
9 approved form for filing a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint with instructions and the approved
10 form application to proceed *in forma pauperis* for an inmate with instructions.

11 DATED: February 10, 2025

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14 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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